



NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND



SUPPLEMENTAL EDUCATIONAL SERVICES PILOT PROGRAMS

"No Child Left Behind has truly empowered parents with better information and more options, including free tutoring under the supplemental educational services provision of the law." --Secretary Margaret Spellings

Raising Achievement – A New Path for *No Child Left Behind*.

- In her April 7, 2005 address at Mt. Vernon, Secretary Spellings announced a new, common-sense approach to the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) that offers states and school districts flexibility in their implementation of the law, provided they are meeting its core principles and its primary goal of improving student achievement. Four key principles will guide the Department's approach: ensuring students are learning; making the school system accountable; ensuring information is accessible and options are available; and improving the quality of teachers.

Giving Parents Real Options by Implementing Quality Supplemental Educational Service Programs.

- Supplemental educational services (SES), including free tutoring and afterschool assistance, are an **important component of NCLB**, and provide low-income parents real options to improve their children's academic performance. This extra help is offered to the neediest students in schools deemed "in need of improvement" for at least two years (a designation received after missing adequate yearly progress goals for three years). It is a vital element of the **schools' reform efforts** as well.
- SES is a new provision under NCLB, and we have learned valuable lessons in its first few years of implementation. Setting up a successful SES program requires **close coordination and cooperation** between a state, its school districts, SES providers, and parents.
- Unfortunately, there is evidence from across the country that the SES provision is not being implemented to its full potential. Too few eligible students are receiving SES. According to several studies, only about **10 to 20 percent** of eligible students across the country participated during 2003-04.

Under the Leadership of Secretary Spellings, the U.S. Department of Education is Testing New SES Pilot Programs During the 2005-06 School Year.

- To improve the delivery and quality of SES to students, the Department is testing a series of **SES pilot programs** in a select number of school districts across the country.
- These pilot programs will fulfill two key priorities: ensuring that **more eligible students** are receiving SES, and providing **more accurate and comprehensive information** to the Department on SES programs' effectiveness in improving student academic achievement.
- The Department hopes to gain valuable knowledge about SES from these pilot programs – information that can be shared with states and districts to **improve the quality and delivery** of these services.

SES Pilot Programs in Select Urban School Districts.

- The Department is working with the independent **Council of the Great City Schools** to enter into flexibility agreements with select urban school districts that are committed to providing SES to more eligible children.
- The agreements will serve to increase student participation in, and strengthen the quality of, SES programs in these districts.
- **Chicago Public Schools** is the first urban district to enter into a flexibility agreement with the Department; more agreements will be announced in the near future.
- Pilot districts will be eligible to act as SES providers in exchange for expanding students' ability to access SES providers and collecting achievement data to determine SES program effectiveness. Specifically, these districts have agreed to provide:
 - **Early notification** to parents of their children's eligibility to participate in SES;
 - **Extended enrollment periods** so that parents can make the best choice for their child;
 - The **use of district facilities** by non-district providers for a reasonable fee; and
 - Academic data to an **independent third party** to evaluate the effectiveness of SES services.
- Chicago Public Schools estimates that approximately **280,000 students in 357 schools** are eligible to participate in SES programs during the 2005-06 school year.

The SES Pilot Program in Virginia.

- The Department has also entered into a **flexibility agreement with the state of Virginia**. For the 2005-06 school year, Virginia will be allowed to reverse the order in which public school choice and SES are offered in the school improvement timeline in four divisions (districts): Alexandria City, Henry County, Newport News, and Stafford County. As a result, SES will be offered to low-income students in schools marked "in need of improvement" **one year earlier**.
- As part of this flexibility agreement, Virginia has committed to increasing the number of eligible students participating in SES; extending enrollment periods; expanding options for parents; and providing achievement data on students in the SES pilot districts.

For more information about No Child Left Behind visit www.ed.gov or call 1-800-USA-LEARN.